

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2010

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 5, 2010

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

## ASSEMBLY BILL

**No. 1914**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Davis**

February 16, 2010

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An act to ~~amend Section 18914 of~~ *add Section 18914.1 to* the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to public social services.

### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1914, as amended, Davis. Public social services: ~~emergency~~ food stamp benefits.

Existing law provides for the *federal* Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), under which food stamps are allocated to the state by the federal government and are distributed to eligible households by each county. Existing law requires, to the extent provided by federal law, that food stamp benefits be provided on an expedited basis to households determined to be in immediate need of food assistance.

Existing law provides for the payment of unemployment compensation benefits to eligible individuals who are unemployed through no fault of their own.

~~This bill additionally would require expedited food stamp benefits to be provided to persons awaiting receipt of unemployment compensation benefits, as specified, and would require the State Department of Social Services to seek any federal waivers necessary to implement the bill.~~

*This bill would require a county to take into consideration unemployment compensation benefits of an applicant or recipient of*

*food stamp benefits for the purposes of determining eligibility and the benefit amount only if the county obtains a specified report from the Employment Development Department containing specified information relating to that applicant's unemployment compensation benefits. The bill would also require the county to provide a copy of the report to the applicant or recipient if the county takes any action based on the information in the report.*

To the extent that it would increase the duties—*if* of counties in administering the SNAP *program*, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1     SECTION 1. Section 18914.1 is added to the Welfare and
- 2     Institutions Code, to read:
- 3     18914.1. A county shall take into consideration any
- 4     unemployment compensation benefit income of an applicant or
- 5     recipient under this chapter for the purposes of determining
- 6     eligibility and the amount of benefits only if the county obtains a
- 7     written report from the Employment Development Department
- 8     pursuant to Section 10606.1 showing the exact amount of the
- 9     unemployment compensation benefits and the date that the
- 10    applicant or recipient will receive the unemployment compensation
- 11    benefits. The county shall provide the applicant or recipient with
- 12    a copy of the report obtained from the department pursuant to
- 13    Section 10606.1 if the county takes any action based on the
- 14    information in the report.
- 15    ~~SECTION 1. Section 18914 of the Welfare and Institutions~~
- 16    ~~Code, as amended by Section 4 of Chapter 443 of the Statutes of~~
- 17    ~~1990, is amended to read:~~

1 18914. (a) To the extent provided by federal law, the county  
2 welfare department shall provide food stamp benefits on an  
3 expedited basis to both of the following:

4 (1) Households determined to be in immediate need of food  
5 assistance.

6 (2) Persons awaiting receipt of unemployment compensation  
7 benefits under Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 1251) of Part  
8 1 of Division 1 of the Unemployment Insurance Code. The State  
9 Department of Social Services shall seek any necessary waivers  
10 from the United States Department of Agriculture to implement  
11 this paragraph.

12 (b) At the time an applicant initially seeks assistance, the county  
13 welfare department shall screen all expedited service applications  
14 on a priority basis. Applicants who meet the federal criteria for  
15 expedited service shall receive either a manual authorization to  
16 participate or automated card or the immediate issuance of food  
17 stamp coupons no later than the third day following the date the  
18 application was filed. To the maximum extent permitted by federal  
19 law, the amount of income to be received from any source shall  
20 be deemed to be uncertain and exempt from consideration in the  
21 determination of eligibility for expedited service. For purposes of  
22 this subdivision, a weekend shall be considered one calendar day.

23 (c) The State Department of Social Services shall develop and  
24 implement for expedited issuance a uniform procedure for verifying  
25 information required of an applicant.

26 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
27 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
28 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
29 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
30 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

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33 CORRECTIONS:

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